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**ALA RECOGNIZES MANSFIELD AS LITERARY LANDMARK,  
FORMER FIRST LADY TO UNVEIL PLAQUE AT CEREMONY**

MANSFIELD, Texas – Former First Lady Laura Bush is joining the celebration as the city unveils the plaque designating Mansfield as a national Literary Landmark by the American Library Association.

The designation, only one of five in the state of Texas, recognizes the work of Mansfield author John Howard Griffin and his groundbreaking work, “Black Like Me.” A public celebration is set for 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, at the Mansfield Public Library.

Also participating in the program is Griffin biographer Robert Bonazzi, whose book, “Man in the Mirror” chronicled the life and works of Griffin.

Journalist and author John Howard Griffin (1920-1980) studied literature and medicine, and was a decorated soldier in World War II. His time in the South Pacific during the war sparked an interest in racial culture that later became a focus of his writing. Darkening his skin to transform his appearance, Griffin’s experiences traveling through the South as a black man was the focus of his most famous work, “Black Like Me.” This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of that work.

He wrote 10 novels and various essays, lecturing on race relations and social injustice until his death. He was a resident of Mansfield from the late 1950s until his death at age 60 from complications of diabetes. He is buried in Mansfield Cemetery.